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## Comparative-Religion Notes.

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**Recent Appointments.**—The Ohio Wesleyan University has appointed the Rev. W. F. Oldham, A.M., D.D., to the position of Lecturer on Missions and Comparative Religion. Dr. Oldham was formerly the head of the Anglo-Indian College at Singapore.

Edmund Buckley, Ph.D., has been appointed Docent in Comparative Religion at the University of Chicago. Dr. Buckley was formerly connected with the teaching staff of the Doshisha College in Japan. His special field is that of the Chinese and Japanese Religions. The University of Chicago conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy after a course of special studies and the presentation of a thesis upon "Phallicism in Japan," which is noticed elsewhere in this department.

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**Lectures and Studies.**—The Haskell Lectures on Comparative Religion, on the foundation established by Mrs. Caroline E. Haskell at the University of Chicago, were given at the University on successive Sundays from May 5th to June 9th by the Rev. Dr. John Henry Barrows of Chicago, who was appointed the first lecturer. The general theme of the lecturer was *Christianity, the World-Religion*. The subjects of the several lectures were as follows: May 5, Universal Aspects of Christianity; May 12, World-wide Effects of Christianity; May 19, The Universal Book; May 26, The Universal Man and Saviour; June 2, The Christian Revelation of God the Basis of a Universal Religion; June 9, The Historic Character and Elements of Christianity in their Relations to the Universal Faith. Great interest on the subject was aroused not only on the part of University students but also among the thoughtful people of Chicago. The course was a pronounced success and prophesies great usefulness for the new foundation.

Professor J. Leonard Corning announces a course of Illustrated Lectures which he entitles "Art Studies in Comparative Religion." They are seven in number. After an introductory discussion the following themes are discussed and illustrated: 1) Theophany, or the Expression of the idea of God in the Art of the Ages; 2) The Trinities of Pagan and Christian Art; 3) Demonology in Pagan and Christian Art; 4) Mortality and its symbols in Pagan and Christian Art; 5) Eschatology, or Tomorrow of Death, as symbolized in the Art of the Ages; 6) Pagan Symbolism in Christian Art. Mr. Corning has collected the illustrations for these lectures with great pains, copying from original drawings, paintings and sculptures in the principal libraries, museums

and churches of the Old World. The idea is an ingenious one and the material can hardly fail to be instructive. Mr. Corning can be addressed in care of the U. S. Consulate, Munich, Bavaria.

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**The Study of Religions at Plymouth.**—The School of Applied Ethics at its fourth session held at Plymouth, Mass., July 8–August 9, offers an attractive series of lectures in the History of Religions. Professor H. S. Nash, D.D., of the Cambridge Episcopal Theological School gives four lectures on “Tendencies of Thought in the Christian Church.” Rabbi David Philipson, D.D., of Cincinnati, discusses “The Reform Movement in Judaism,” and “Tendencies of Thought in Modern Judaism.” “Religion and Philosophy” is the theme of four lectures by Professor George T. Ladd, of Yale. His special topics are, The Nature of Religion, The Being of God, God and the World, The Nature of Man, The Destiny of Man. Another series of topics considers “Religion in Modern Literature.” Dr. H. L. Wayland and others lecture on “Church and State.” The secretary of the school is S. Burns Weston, 1305 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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**Piety in Mohammedanism.**—It has been generally believed that Islam has fallen into a condition of apathy, decay and formalism which precludes the growth of genuine individual piety. This is a mistaken notion, as was pointed out by President Washburne in his careful comparison of Christianity and Mohammedanism presented at the Parliament of Religions. He read in connection with his paper a pathetic and devout poem of praise and worship to God composed by a Mohammedan woman. As a further illustration of the same element of devotion and piety, the following Mohammedan hymn, translated from the Hindu by Mr. F. J. Coffin of the University of Chicago, is here printed;

Perfect art Thou, O Lord, in Thy Majesty.  
No one can number the works of Thy creation.  
Whatever is virtuous is inherent in Thy nature,  
And besides Thee, there is no helper.  
The petition of the transgressor ascends to Thee.  
O! be pleased to hear my prayer  
And from the treasure-house of Thine excellence, do Thou enrich me.

It is all the more interesting to notice that this poem has been borrowed for use in Christian churches, being printed in “A Collection of Hymns for Divine Worship by Parsons and Christian;” published by the Baptist Mission Press, Calcutta.

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**New Histories of Religion.**—The long announced book by Dr. Allan Menzies of the University of St. Andrews has just appeared. It is entitled “History of Religions; a sketch of primitive religious beliefs and practices, and of the

origin and character of the great systems." It is published by Charles Scribner's Sons in the "University Series" and is a volume of 438 pages. There is no doubt that it is the most complete work we have in English at present. A full notice of the book will appear in a later issue of the BIBLICAL WORLD.

Principal G. M. Grant of Queen's University, Canada, has written a little book with the title "Religions of the World in relation to Christianity," in the series of Guild Text-books, published by Black of Edinburgh, and Randolph of New York. In 137 pages of small type he discusses the four great non-Christian religions, Mohammedanism, Confucianism, Hinduism and Buddhism, giving, first, an outline of their character and, second, enumerating the elements of their strength and weakness, with a comparison with Christianity expressed or implied. Much valuable and suggestive thought has been put into the book.

Professor Chantepie de la Saussaye whose "Lehrbuch der Religionsgeschichte" is the standard compendium upon the subject, authorizes the announcement that a second edition of this work is to be published in 1896-7 in which the parts that have already become antiquated will be revised and rewritten in collaboration with younger scholars of more special knowledge of the several parts. The new edition will be in one volume and omit the Phenomenological Division. This latter portion Professor de la Saussaye hopes to republish later in a separate volume in fuller form. At present he is engaged on a work in Teutonic Mythology for the series of religious manuals, edited by Professor Jastrow of Philadelphia.

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**Phallicism in Japan.**—The thesis entitled "Phallicism in Japan" referred to above constitutes a real contribution to the history of religions, in that it firmly and fully establishes the fact of phallicism in a land where its presence had hitherto been known, and that but fragmentarily, to very few. Indeed, the cult of the *phallos* and *kteis*--Greek terms respectively for the male and female generative organs--though once widely spread abroad among men, has hitherto, in common with most other features of ethnic religion, been known to only a few specialists. The symbolism here employed for the divine source of all *increase*, while to us unspeakably coarse and even indecent, was to primitive man, and remains to myriads of contemporary men, the most natural and significant religious symbol devisable. In India alone an estimated number of thirty millions of the compound phallos-kteis forms to our own racial cousins the most familiar and cherished symbol of deity. In general, the Occident does not and never can know the Orient until it consents to study Oriental religion, among the very varied viewpoints of which phallicism is one of the most instructive just because so far removed from nations and sentiments which have among us become pervasive. The pamphlet is on sale only at The University of Chicago Press.